Upperside dark brown. Anterior wing with twelve minute transparent spots: three at the middle of the costal margin, two of which are in the cell; six in a central oblique band, two of which are lunular; and three near the apex; a minute white spot on the fringe at the apex, and a lunular spot of the same colour near the anal angle. Posterior wing with the outer half grey, bordered above with white, crossed near the outer margin by a band of dark brown.

Underside. Anterior wing as above, except that there are two minute white spots above the lunular spot near the anal angle. Posterior wing with a band of white spots at the middle, a series of smaller white spots below these, and a large black spot at the anal angle bordered above and below with white.

Exp. $1\frac{7}{20}$ inch.

Hab. Amazons (*Bates*).

Conognathus Platon of Felder is the typical representative of this genus; but as Mr. Kirby informs me that *Conognathus* is preoccupied, I have adopted *Arteurotia* of Butler and Druce. *Thracides Aristoteles* of Westwood also belongs to this genus, and bears very little resemblance to the species which Hübner puts into his genus *Thracides*.

XXXVIII.—*Note on* Artamus monachus. By Dr. F. Brüggemann.

In 1850 Prince Bonaparte established a new species of *Artamus* from Celebes (*A. monachus*), with the following diagnosis:—"Capite, alis caudaque nigris" (Consp. Avium, i. p. 343).

In 1877 Dr. Sclater established a new species of *Artamus* from New Ireland (*A. insignis*), with the following diagnosis:—"Diversus ab *A. monacho* capite alis et cauda nigris" (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1877, p. 101).

Going further into the question, it may be mentioned in advance that *A. monachus* was first distinguished and named by Temminck; but as the Dutch ornithologist never gave a description of it, we have not at all to deal with an *A. monachus* of Temminck, as quoted by most authors. The next account of the species was given by the illustrious traveller Wallace, who described specimens from North Celebes and the Sula Islands (P. Z. S. 1862, p. 340), as having the head, wings, and tail ashy grey instead of black. Upon this, Lord Walden, in his elaborate memoir on the birds of Celebes (Trans. Zool. Soc. viii. p. 67), where also a good figure of the

species is given, expressed his doubts about the identity of Bonaparte's and Wallace's birds. Having found again the characters indicated by Wallace in one of Von Rosenberg's specimens, I suggested in a previous paper (Abh. Ver. Brem. v. p. 69) that there might be a *lapsus calami* in Bonaparte's statement.

Such being the state of affairs, until a short time ago, there could not be much objection to naming the Celebean bird "*A. monachus.*" Bonaparte's diagnosis is, indeed, short enough; and recently one of his appellations, although in general use, has been rejected on account of its being accompanied by a diagnostic phrase consisting of only *four* words. However, I cannot agree in fixing a certain number of words as indispensable for the establishment of a species. This would lead to a most trivial higgling; for it is extremely difficult to tell how many words should be considered sufficient. In some cases, I think, even a single word might do; besides it can never be demanded that the first description of a species should be exhaustive in every respect. But Bonaparte's diagnosis is erroneous; and, as lately the *Oriolus indicus* has been renamed because of a wrong original description, it might have been regarded as necessary to find a new name for our bird. But this objection is, in my belief, not sustainable, as the species could be ascribed to Wallace, as well as the *Oriolus indicus* to Jerdon.

However, it has become unavoidable to rename the Celebes bird; for now a species is known answering fully to Bonaparte's diagnosis, viz. *A. insignis*; and therefore I venture to propose the name of *A. spectabilis* for the former. It now little matters whether Bonaparte's term "*nigris*" is miswritten or not, and whether the type in the Leyden Museum is really *A. insignis* (and in this case the *habitat* would be wrong) or *A. spectabilis* (and then the description would be wrong); on the contrary, I consider it best, under such circumstances, to drop "*A. monachus*" altogether, and to use the new names for the two species respectively.

XXXIX.—*Description of an apparently new Species of Pigeon of the Genus* Ptilopus. By D. G. Elliot, F.R.S.E. &c.

Ptilopus pictiventris.

Adult. Front and crown rosy purple, with a faintly indicated yellow margin. Occiput greenish grey. Throat whitish; neck, upper part of mantle, and breast ashy green.